



Swimming Upstream: Middle School Poems

Kristine O'Connell George , Debbie Tilley (Illustrator)

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Award-winning poet Kristine O'Connell George, author of several successful picture books, now turns her attention to the middle school experience. The first year brings an array of challenges: making new friends, moving from class to class, tests and homework, changing for PE, gossip, school dances, and, of course, budding romance. Short, accessible poems in a variety of forms, but all in a single voice—that of a new middle schooler—evoke the memorable moments of the school year, exploring situations and emotions that will resonate with preteens. Lively illustrations complement this perceptive, humorous, poignant record of an important transitional year.

Swimming Upstream: Middle School Poems Details

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Author : Kristine O'Connell George , Debbie Tilley (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Swimming Upstream: Middle School Poems for online ebook

Kevin Hodgson says

Loved this collection ... perfect for reading aloud during transition time

Andrea says

I really enjoyed this book. I read it to my 5th graders to help them feel better about going to middle school next year, and this book was a great platform for some of our discussions. We also had plenty of good literary discussions about the poems that were included. I thought the poems were funny and insightful. My students enjoyed the book as well.

Shelby says

This book of poems by Kristine O'Connell George truly describes "the middle school experience." Her poems are creative and humorous, while still often emotional. This book of poetry that encompasses what it means to be in middle school would be so perfect for those who are actually still in it. I could definitely see using this book as a tool while teaching a unit on poetry. I would use it to discuss and examine what kind of patterns are present in poems. Those patterns could include rhyme, repetition, or structure. Then, using this book as a mentor text, I would assign students to write a poem of their own about their "middle school experience." I would ask them to incorporate at least one of the patterns we had discussed in that poem. Once you - the teacher - have everyone's poems, you could compile them into book!

Ben says

I thought this book was a good book but for me it would have been better if the book had more rhyming poems. But I did like how most of the poems are realistic and that made me connect with the book and/or author.

Denay S. says

This book is for kids that are about to go to Middle School to know what to expect. like in one of the poems that you have friends from elementary school and you have no periods at all together and you can't find them during school. this is a whole bunch of poems about what could happen in middle school like forgetting your lock combination, not being able to see your friends until after or before school, or classes and what you should do and shouldn't do in Middle School. This is about a group of newly middle school kids that have an adventure even though they don't have any classes and don't sit next to each other they somehow find out how they can stay together thought the school differences and new friends they all meet

Annabelle.H says

It was a good and easy book I would recommend it if you need a quick and easy book to read

Savion Stfleur says

This book was amazing. All the sort poems were completely relatable being in the middle school. Also another reason why I liked this book was because of the funny poems that are in there my favorite one is "Final Exams." I would definitely recommend this book to a 5th grader nervous about going to middle school.

(NS) Panagiota Angelos says

This book takes the reader on an emotional and realistic journey of a student's first year of middle school. It deals with students new anxieties of starting at a new school such as where to sit at lunch, getting lost, dressing for PE, what to wear, and attending school dances. The author uses a variety of poetry forms including free verse, haiku and acrostic poems.

Swimming upstream in Middle School is a book every middle school and last year elementary school teacher should own. I was able to relive all my fears and anxieties of going to middle school and connect with the main character. The author does an amazing job conveying the main characters feelings and covering a variety of situations. Teachers can prepare students for changing schools and can help to put their minds at ease. It's a nice tool for teachers to let students know that other students have and do feel the same way when faced with the same change.

L13_Meghan says

I absolutely love this book of poems. All of the poems included in this book capture the many memorable moments of middle school. This book consists of poems that touch on the transition to middle school, the idea of finding new friends, and new expectations in middle school. The illustrations included with all of the poems only further the the connections that the reader is able to make to these poems. I would definitely use this book in my middle school classroom with my students who have just started 6th grade and are making that difficult transition. There are so many opportunities for discussion with these poems as well as opportunities for students to journal and relate to these poems. I would highly recommend this book for middle school classrooms!

Isaac Castilla says

This book was not good at all. This book's poems were short and did not make that much sense, to a point that I was thinking not even this book. The best part were the little drawings. The author makes the plot simple by keeping it strictly middle school.

Andrew Kiley says

I liked this book because the poems in the book are sometimes true, and it was funny and creative. It seemed like it was real. I think you should read because it is humorous and create. It might be right up your ally

(NS) Lisa says

Swimming Upstream is a collection of poems that captures the trials and tribulations of beginning in middle school. Starting middle school for many students can be exciting and scary all at the same time. Everything is different, you have to move from class to class, you have a locker and a combination that never seems to work, friends have changed, tests are tough and now you have to change for PE class.

This collection of poems written in a variety of forms captures all the memorable moments of a school year as seen through the eyes of a middle schooler. Through gentle humor and a few passing anxieties, the school year brings a sense of self confidence and success.

Appropriate for students in fifth through seventh grads.

Joe says

This book is about Kristine O'Connell George and others experience in middle school. She writes in various shapes with the poems and even illustrates some pictures in the book. The book talks about your typical struggles as you progress through your first year of middle school. For example, school dances, gossip, homework, PE, moving from class to class, and of course.....puberty.

I gave this book a three out of five stars because it was a little boring, and I am not who likes poems. It was good because I could relate to it a lot. I recommend this book to the upcoming classes in middle school. It could give you some pointers.

Kelly Robertson says

Through short, cute poems, Swimming Upstream: Middle School Poems by Kristine O'Connell tells the story of a young girl's first year of middle school. This includes homeroom, lockers, old friendships, new friendships, new crushes, band, and the lunchroom. She has some funny experiences, and some kind of bittersweet, but they are very much just like our own middle school experience. The rhymes are simple and creative and are a great model for kids to use for their own writing. I know everybody hates the world

"relatable" in English classes but this is exactly what this book is. To everybody.

If I were to choose, I would do Gallagher's A Watermark Event poetry activity at the end of the school year. I would have the students look back on their year in middle school (which ever grade that might be) and pick the one event that has made the biggest impact on them. It can be a happy moment, funny moment, or sad moment. Rhyming in poetry is more challenging, but I think our students can embrace this fun challenge. This activity could also lead to a lot of great stories shared in class.

Kyleigh M says

Great book. Poetry isn't my favorite because I like to know the full detail of the story. I recommend to people who don't really care for poetry. I read it in 20 minutes so it's a very easy read for most.
